



**House Health Committee
March 26, 2026**

**Senate Bill 428
Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance –
Collaborative Care Model - Cost Sharing Prohibition
Support with Amendments**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 428 with amendments that conform the bill to the version passed by the House. The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) is a validated, patient-centered, evidence-based approach for integrating physical and behavioral health care in primary care settings that has been validated in over 90 randomized controlled trials and shown to improve health outcomes and reduce costsⁱ.

Increasing the use of CoCM across Maryland is vital, but data shows a drop-off of CoCM billing after a patient's first visit. This totally defeats the benefit of the model. The decline in billing after the initial appointment is being attributed to a reluctance among patients to pay additional out of pocket costs for the important follow-up visits. While we hope reducing or eliminating cost-sharing takes place in the future, we believe the next step of mandating coverage across carriers is important.

NCADD-Maryland urges this committee to conform Senate Bill 428 to the House version and give it a favorable report.

ⁱ <https://concerthealth.com/blog/new-report-collaborative-care-reduces-costs>